Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 558

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR. RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR TALKS--WHAT ABOUT THE NEXT ROUND?

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL DEC 16, ECON/COMMERCIAL
COUNSELOR DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER CIVAIR
TALKS WITH DFA UNDERSECRETARY INGLES. LATTER INITIATED
DISCUSSIONS BY ASKING WHEN SUCH TALKS MIGHT BE RENEWED
AND ON WHAT BASIS. ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SAID
PRESENT FREQUENCY/CAPACITY REGIME, ALBEIT LIMITED,
SEEMED SATISFACTORY FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT NEW TALKS
WOULD BE NEEDED TO ALLOW FOR ANY EXPANSION, AND PRESENT
TRAFFIC TRENDS SUGGESTED NEW TALKS SHOULD BE HELD IN TIME
TO PERMIT NECESSARY EXPANSION OF SERVICES OVER THE NEXT 12-18
MONTHS. PRESENT SCHEDULED SERVICES OF PANAM, NWA AND
PAL WERE INCREASINGLY CROWDED, AND THE COMBINATION OF
RAPID GROWTH IN MANILA HOTEL CAPACITY PLUS CONTINUING
RECOVERY IN U.S. SUGGESTED EARLY NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL
BOOST IN CAPACITY.

2. REGARDING BASIS FOR FUTURE TALKS, ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SAID THERE WAS STILL CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN U.S. FOR A BERMUDA REGIME. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD NOT CONSULTED DEPARTMENT OR USCAB RECENTLY HE DOUBTED PERSONALLY THAT U.S. SIDE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN NEW TALKS UNLESS POSSIBILITIES FOR A BERMUDA AGREEMENT COULD BE CONSTRUCTIVELY EXAMINED. INGLES NODDED WITHOUT COMMENT, BUT ASKED ABOUT LIKELY SUBJECTS OF INTERDST TO U.S. ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SPECUALTED THAT U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARRIERS WOULD BE INTERSTED AT MINIMUM IN EARLY AUTHORITY

TO GO TO DAILY WIDE-BODIED SERVICE; PANAM AT LEAST WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RIGHTS BEYOND MANILA, E.G., HONG KONG; AND ALL THREE U.S. CARRIERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPANDED CARGO CAPACITIES. TO INGLES QUESTION, "WHAT ABOUT GUAM?" ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT NO DOUBT CONSIDERATION OF GUAM RIGHTS FOR PAL WOULD BE ON THE AGENDA OF ANY COMPREHENSIVE TALKS, BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PERFORCE PAL HAD RENDERED ITS OWN ARGUMENT--THAT GUAM HAD BEEN PAID FOR BY FTL RIGHTS--ENTIRELY MOOT BY INSISTING THAT PANAM CARGO RIGHTS NOT BE RENEWED.

3. COMMENT: IT DID NOT APPEAR THAT INGLES WAS PURSUING TOPIC WITH ANY PARTICULAR OBJECTIVE IN MIND. HIS REACTION TO EACH POINT, I.E., PRACTICALLY NIL, IS PERFECTLY NORMAL. HOWEVER, INGLES IS NOT NOTED FOR RAISING ISSUES MERELY TO SUSTAIN DIALOGUE; THUS THERE MAY BE A SPARK OF REAL INTEREST ON GOP SIDE IN A NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS. SULLIVAN

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